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QUOTE

*Challenges are like the rain,
let's be prepared for the sunny days.*

Giovanna Salas

Heart Of Hollywood Motion Pictures, CEO

www.heartofhollywoodmagazine.com

Editor's Letter



Photo Credit: Jac Wong

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LEAPS OF FAITH

By Sandy Rodriguez

Persistence, resilience, and trusting the process is often the key to success. This is particularly true in the entertainment industry, where constant rejection is par for the course. Actors, for instance, need to develop a thick skin and learn from every "no" until they get a career-changing "yes". In this issue, contributor Aaron Marcus explains how to deal if an agent turns you down. His advice is excellent, and yet I acknowledge that feeling like you will eventually succeed requires a leap of faith.

I myself am taking a leap of faith right now. I am about to embark on a financial commitment which will likely require me to take on a second job in addition to my current full-time one. But I will be investing in my (very deserving, extremely bright) child's future, and I am positive it will be worth it. Also, who knows? A solution to make this more manageable might present itself.

Sometimes, people who are struggling in different ways find that others are rooting for them. For instance, our cover model is the amazing Tema Staig, founder of Women In Media. Her goal

is to have 40 to 60 percent of the crew working on any show to be made up of women and gender non-conforming people. Her organization's advocacy is helping many creative, talented individuals who otherwise might be overlooked for projects.

The day Tema's cover was shot, I also got to meet actor Phil Morris in the studio. He played Johnnie Cochran-inspired attorney Jackie Chiles on **Seinfeld** and was one of my favorite recurring characters. His father, the late Greg Morris, was on the iconic TV series **Mission: Impossible**, which debuted in 1966. Phil was interviewed by Elisa Plata, one of Heart Of Hollywood Magazine's on-air hosts. Check out their conversation at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLDerJAioEw

Lastly, if you're planning to be in Cannes for the upcoming film festival, let Heart Of Hollywood Magazine know so you can meet up with our team members who will be there. I'm not going, but I will be eagerly awaiting updates on how Johnny Depp's new film does. I'm curious to see it once it comes to American theaters.

May all your career (and financial) goals come true!

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FROM THE
EDITOR!

Entertainment expert (and Heart Of Hollywood Magazine editor) Sandy Rodriguez is the author of **Choose to Prevail**, a book designed to help the reader navigate life more confidently.

It is a collection of nonfiction essays, written from the heart and with a sprinkling of humor. From dealing with problem people or making peace with your appearance to letting go of envy or getting comfortable with public speaking, this slim volume has you covered.

Choose to Prevail is the Gold Medal winner in the Best Health & Wellness Book category of the Internation-

al Latino Book Awards, the largest Latino cultural awards event in the U.S. It is also the 2021 Readers' Favorite Silver Medal Winner in the Non-Fiction - Grief/Hardship genre.

Read over 100 reviews and purchase on Amazon (shorturl.at/bEGLP) or most other online book retailers. Signed copies available only at www.heartofhollywood-magazine.com/product-page/choose-to-prevail-signed-copy-by-sandy-rodriguez-paperback

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Rule No 5

A full-page photograph of a woman walking on a runway. She is wearing a white, high-collared outfit with a large, intricate beaded necklace. The outfit has puffed shoulders and a belt. She is wearing white trousers and white pointed-toe pumps. Her hair is styled in an updo with a headband.

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Photo Credit: Pietro Piacenti

Event Manager & Press: Office Maria Cristina Rigano- International Couture Presented "A Romance Glamour Fashion Show" At Roma Fashion Week Altaroma

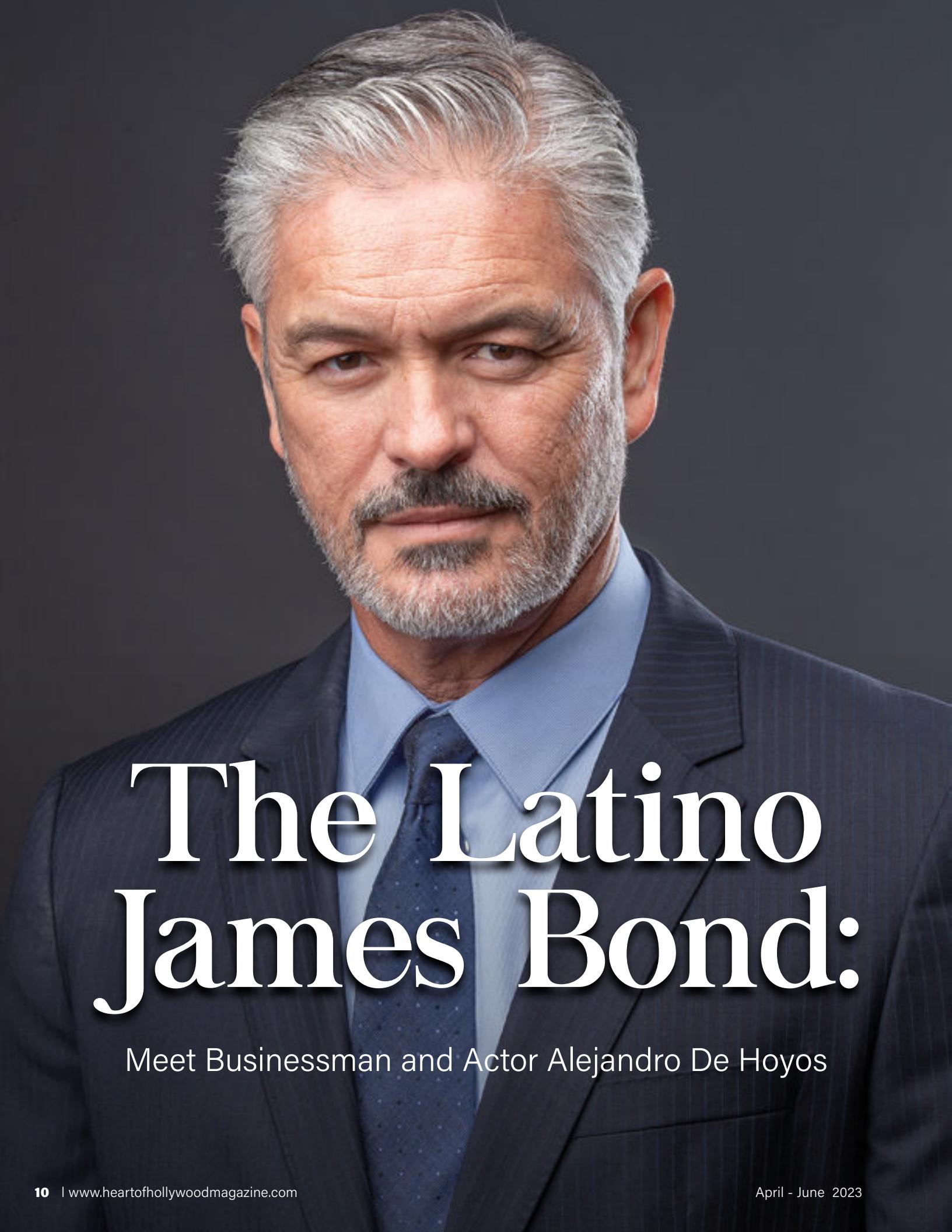




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The Latino James Bond:

Meet Businessman and Actor Alejandro De Hoyos

Any high-net-worth Gen-Xer from Mexico City was familiar with Magic Circus, a highly exclusive nightclub back in the day. It was headed by Alejandro De Hoyos, who is now a successful businessman and an actor making his mark in Hollywood.

Alejandro was born in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. He moved with his family to Acapulco, Mexico. It was there that he began working at some of the most popular discos, and hobnobbing with the jet-set, when he was just a teenager.

At 22, he was hired to manage Magic Circus, the largest private club in Mexico City, where many members were in politics or entertainment. He learned to deal with powerful people, and when he came across performers, he would sometimes ask them to do shows. He ended up booking famous Mexican entertainers including Lupita, D'Alessio and José José, as well as international disco-era sensations Sylvester and eighties star Laura Branigan.

Alejandro has been an entrepreneur since he was very young and currently heads multiple companies. However, he had always been a film buff and decided to start acting at the age of 30. Since then, he has been in over 200 commercials, including an award-winning one for Northwestern Mutual directed by Mexican cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki.

"It's never too late," he says. "If you like something, go get it. Your age doesn't matter. Sometimes when you're older it's actually the perfect time."

Alejandro's TV credits include **The Bold and the Beautiful** (1998-2003) and **General Hospital** (2003).

In 2016, he founded Alta California Pictures, a production company. The first film he produced was **El Contratista** (2018).

He has been in other movies as well, such as **Clear and Present Danger** (1994), **Free Dead or Alive** (2021), **The Man from Toronto** (2022), and **Trigger Warning** (2022).

Alejandro enjoys martial arts and is currently training for a movie with numerous fight scenes. He has been called "the Latino James Bond", as many people believe he resembles actors Pierce Brosnan and Sean Connery back when they played Agent 007.

Alejandro was recently interviewed, in Spanish, by Heart Of Hollywood Magazine's on-air host Gaby Balderrama. Be sure to check out their conversation, featuring very sensible advice for entrepreneurs and actors, here: www.youtube.com/live/rZdxJXhGW2k?feature=share





Dazzling And Sorrowful

A Feature Film about Reclaiming Hope after a Tragedy

See Me Once More, My Dear Kid, a 90-minute feature film, shows a Chinese-American mother, Lily Zhang, embarked on a tortuous journey of healing after her son was killed in a school shooting, accompanied by her family and the families of other victims.

Set against the backdrop of a true event, the 2018 school mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, it focuses on a young Chinese-American hero, Peter

Wang, who was shot and killed while helping his classmates escape.

This film is an intimate, heart-breaking portrait of Lily Zhang, a Chinese-American mother. It shows a dazzling, sorrowful, and deeply affecting journey through the unbearable pain of losing her son, and ultimately reclaiming humanity and hope. It is the cry of mothers and families who have suffered devastating losses, and a pres-

ent of love for those who are in need of emotional healing.

This is the first film from female Chinese director (Margaret) Bihong Sha, acclaimed for her documentaries about saving women and children. She was once a TV host with audiences in the tens of millions. Nearly every one of her documentaries and TV appearances discussed social topics that were particularly relevant for the national media.



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PARTY TIME: Oscars Night at the Museum



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The Academy Museum in Los Angeles hosted a one-of-a-kind celebration on Sunday, March 12. Hundreds of industry heavyweights and museum members were present at this red carpet event. The 95th Academy Awards were livestreamed in this architecturally impressive venue. Guests were treated to wines and interesting cocktails (including palomas and the coffee-forward "black tie martini"), dinner by Wolfgang Puck, and fun late-night burgers and fries from Shake Shack.

An exciting after party featured music from DJ Toks in the Sidney Poitier Grand Lobby and Orquestra Charangoa on the Dolby Family Terrace. Heart Of Hollywood Magazine CEO Giovanna Salas was in attendance.

Actor and model Halas Wilbourn, actress and producer Kira Reed Lorsch, podcaster Katherine "Kat" Zammuto, cinematographer Hugo Arvizu, actor Alexander A. Stone, and Heart Of Hollywood Magazine editor Sandy Rodriguez were a few of the event attendees. Overheard, highly animated conversations centered around Oscar nominees, snubs, gaffes, jokes, and fashion.

In the days leading up to this electrifying evening, the museum had offered screenings of Academy Award-nominated shorts and panels with Academy Award-nominated filmmakers.

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STAR-STUDDED SOIREE:

Elton John—singer, pianist, composer, and philanthropist—threw his annual Oscar viewing party in West Hollywood on March 12, 2023. This is the 31st year he has held this event, one of the most prestigious parties surrounding the Oscars.

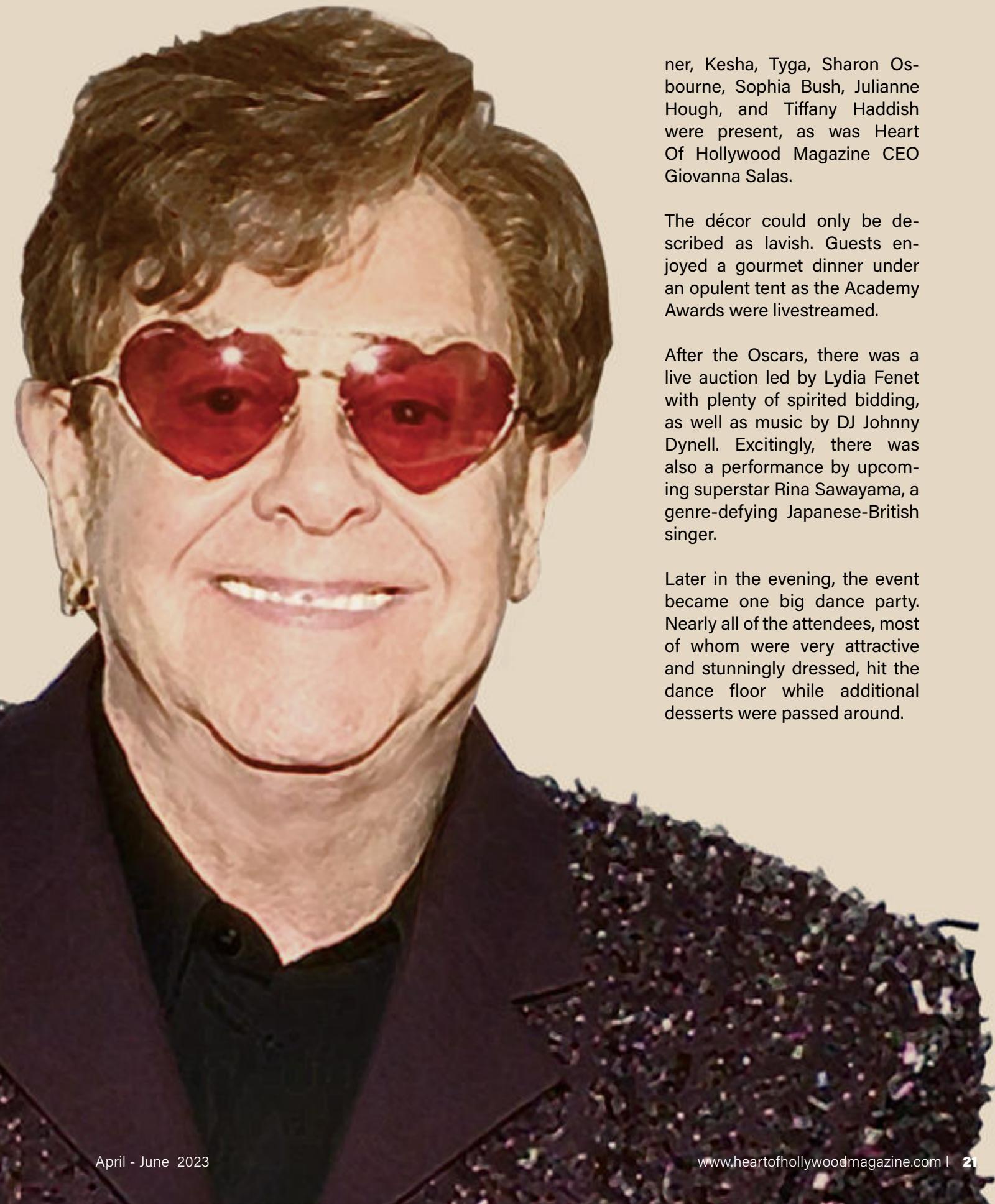
Scores of fans surrounded the venue in hopes of catching a glimpse of celebrities attending this gala, which aims to raise funds for the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

The event, hosted by Elton and his husband David Furnish, featured a long carpet that was actually red, unlike this year's Academy Awards champagne-colored carpet. The evening's special guests were Eric McCormack and Michaela Jae Rodriguez. Donatella Versace, Tim Allen, Patricia Arquette, Heidi Klum, Hilary Duff, Christina Hendricks, Brooke Shields, Emma Watson, Christina Hendricks, Chris Pine, Caitlyn Jen-

Elton John's

*Annual
Oscar Party*





ner, Kesha, Tyga, Sharon Osbourne, Sophia Bush, Julianne Hough, and Tiffany Haddish were present, as was Heart Of Hollywood Magazine CEO Giovanna Salas.

The décor could only be described as lavish. Guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner under an opulent tent as the Academy Awards were livestreamed.

After the Oscars, there was a live auction led by Lydia Fenet with plenty of spirited bidding, as well as music by DJ Johnny Dynell. Excitingly, there was also a performance by upcoming superstar Rina Sawayama, a genre-defying Japanese-British singer.

Later in the evening, the event became one big dance party. Nearly all of the attendees, most of whom were very attractive and stunningly dressed, hit the dance floor while additional desserts were passed around.

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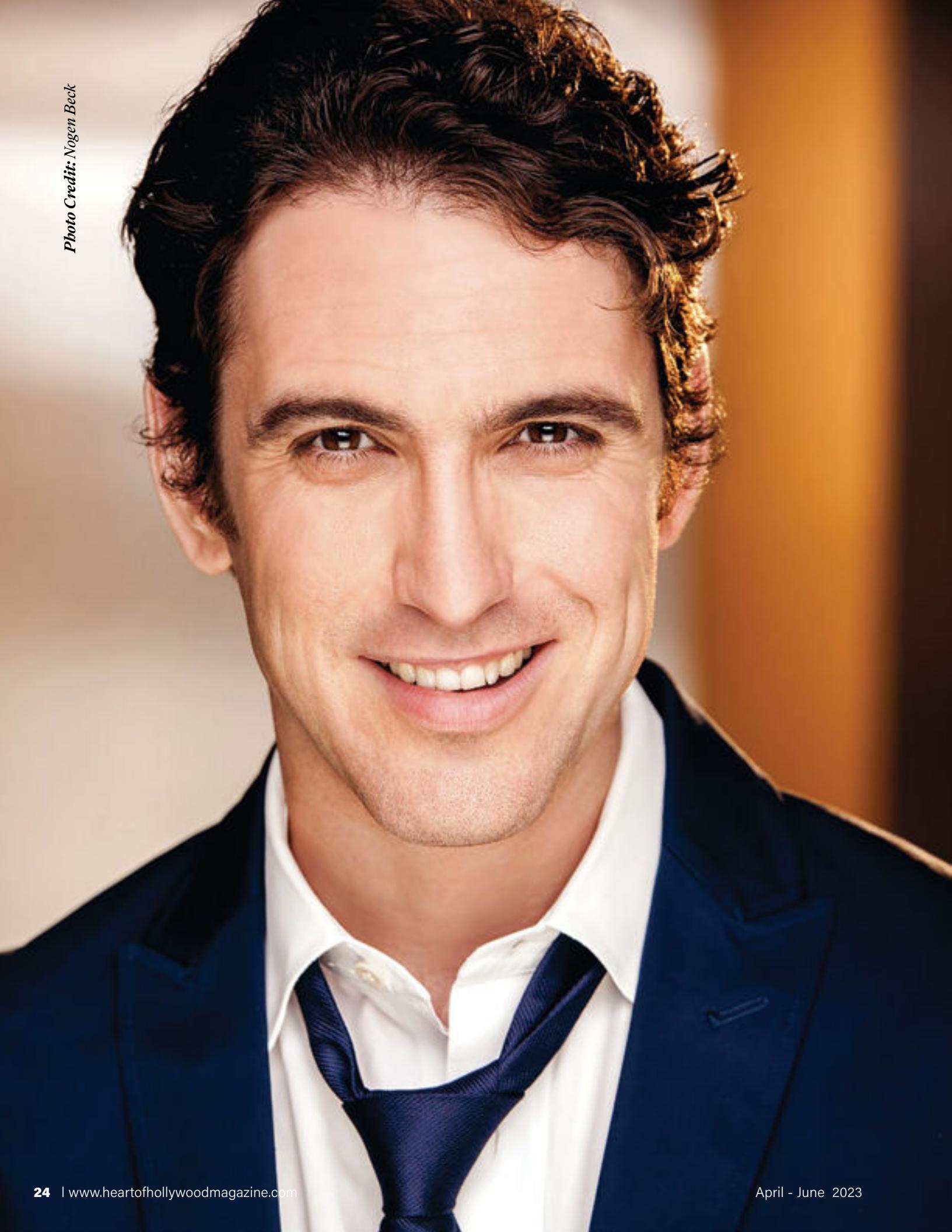


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Christos Tsiloglanidis, from Thessaloniki, Greece, is an actor based in Los Angeles. Storytelling through movies is his passion.

"I started acting in the theater as a kid. Over the years, I was able to graduate from Rontides Drama School. I took part in small productions and eventually I moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting in the movie industry," he explains.

Storytelling Through Movies

How long have you been in the entertainment industry as an actor, and what do you enjoy the most about this field?

I graduated from drama school in 2011, so it's been 12 years. Being part of a great movie, and working with great people, is what I enjoy the most.

What attracted you to acting?

A few years back, I was trying to figure out what to do with my life, and one day I was walking by the main square of my hometown of Thessaloniki and I bumped into a group of performers who were entertaining a crowd. I was fascinated and stayed until the end of the show. Then, one of the performers gave me a flyer advertising

their drama school. That's when I started pursuing acting professionally and seriously.

Who are your biggest influences?

My sister, for one, because when I was a kid, she was in a theater group. She was the one who got me into acting. I still remember how much I loved the whole process of rehearsing a play, interacting with all the people that were in it, and eventually performing in front of an audience.

Also, I'm a big fan of Mel Gibson. I remember the first time I saw **Lethal Weapon**, which fascinated me. I remember it to this day.

What is your main strength as an actor?

My ability to adapt to different roles.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

Extremely difficult, because there are a lot of people who want to do the same thing.

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

My dream is to be part of great movies and work with great people. Actually, I do feel that I'm on the path to this goal right now.

What is your message to all your fans?

Follow your dream. Take one step at a time.

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OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Codi Jean Wallace is an emerging hip-hop, Christian, and country recording artist based in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Her songs include *Think Of Me* and *Scarred*.

She considers herself an underdog rising. This small-town country girl doesn't mind the city lights. She hails from Manila, Arkansas, where she spent half her life, and has lived in Bowie, Texas, despite a few detours.

"I have two beautiful babies that push me to do better and be better. 'Beyond settling' is a term I use because, well, my gypsy soul keeps me on my toes, always wanting better and pushing for better despite the odds. Breaking cycles and breaking many chains, overcoming bullying, drug addiction, domestic violence, and a hard battle of codependency to name a few issues. I've refused to give up. If I don't believe in myself, no one else will. People ask me why I do what I do. I do it to tell a story to help inspire underdogs everywhere, because there were times when I needed someone or just a kind word, and no one was there."

Codi Jean Wallace, a Singer, Music Writer, Artist, and Influencer Who Beat the Odds

What sets you apart from others in your field, what do you love about what you do, and how did you get to where you are today?

First of all, I'm a single mommy to two amazing girls who are more talented in their left toe than I am! But my passion sets me apart. I wrote my first song at about 10 and my brother and daddy made fun of me for it. Despite how I felt, I know they love me and I wouldn't take my childhood back because it made me a fighter, a survivor, a champion. No training could ever do what life did for me and my babies, and my brother Levi. We are survivors! I always said that by 30 I'd be married and settled down. Well, I can honestly say that I married myself this year and found the love I never had in myself, which was necessary to ever be able to give it to a man.

Glory to God for all the blessings. Without him, I am nothing. He brought me out of a hole that I couldn't have ever escaped on my own. I was far from Miss Popular or the homecoming queen. I had to work at 15. Thank you, Dairy Queen! Like Parker Mccullom sang, it's been a hell of a year, and who I was ain't who I was gonna be. Miranda Lambert's wondering if she's settling up or settling down, but I think she was talking about me. I need to break a few family traditions. They got us nowhere but hurt and pain over many years and now it's time for peace and happiness.

What are some of the projects that you are currently working on?

Trying to make more money and do music, modeling, film, and writing full-time.

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

My goal is to show myself, my babies, and anyone who doubted me that I am a CJ. I'm Codi Jean and I'm changing the scenery! No matter how old you are, shoot for the stars. I've met a lot of talented people but had to keep on truckin' because I am not going to fall back to drugs and ill behaviors. Loyalty Out-Values Everything is "love" spelled out. I want to trust. I want to be trusted and I want people behind me through thick and thin, and I will be behind them.

What is one thing you're glad you tried but would never do again?

Say no to drugs, kids!

What have you created that you are most proud of?

My babies and my music that tells a story. Watch out, there's a lot more I'm cooking up!

What is your message for our Heart Of Hollywood Magazine readers?

No matter where you came from or what color you are, if there's something you want to do, do it. Don't worry about what people label you, or someone's label. It'll be hard. Go harder. Throw on some Steve Harvey motivation, pick up your own ass like my mom has said, and keep going. Also ask yourself, are you happy with the reflection you see when you look in the mirror at the end of every day? I live by the Lord's Prayer, and though I fall, I keep going.

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MAKING HIS MARK IN THE U.S.

George's Dream Is to Meet Mel Gibson and Submit a Script That Is Made into a Movie, Then Nominated for an Oscar

Giorgi Megrelashvili, who goes by the stage name George Megrela, is 47 and hails from Tbilisi, Georgia. In his country, this professional actor, director, and producer has been in roughly 25 TV series and films.

He recently moved to the U.S., specifically to Philadelphia, and has the goal of moving to Los Angeles soon.

"I was lucky enough to get a green card so, a few months ago I moved to the U.S., and I want to fulfill my dreams in my profession. To achieve this goal, I think I should live in Los Angeles. I am working day and night to save money so that I can move to Los Angeles. I work the night shift at UPS, and in the night shift and in the evenings I'm a host at the Carrabba's restaurant. I devote time during the day to study the English language. I am working hard to develop my language skills and my accent," he says. "It's really important for me to

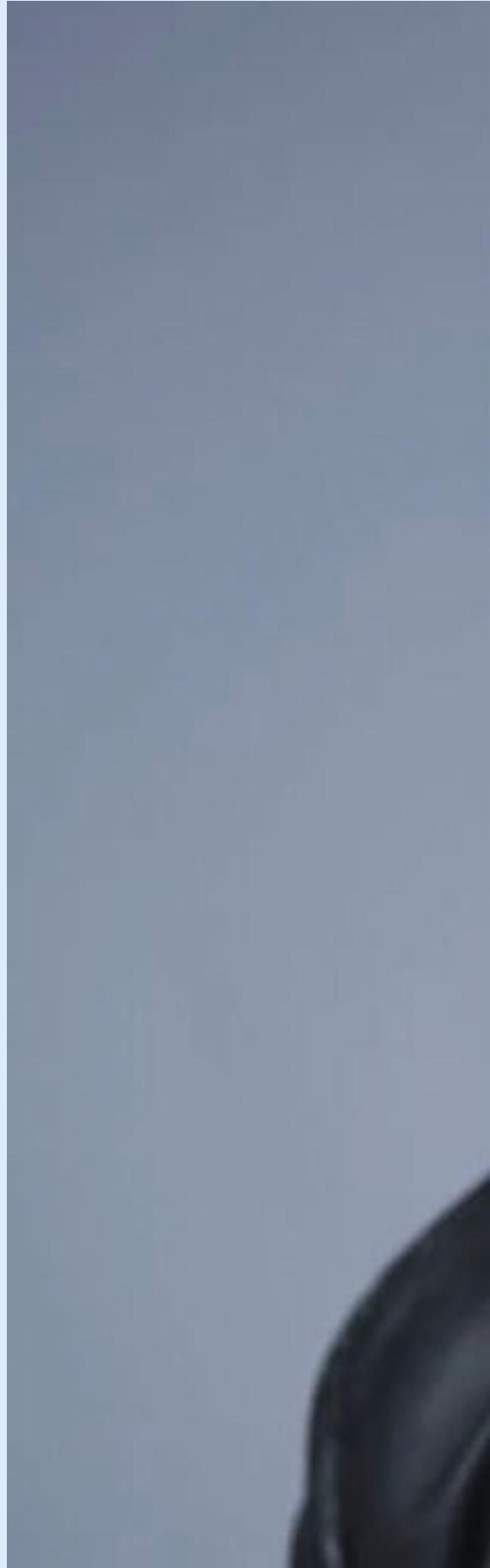
find a talent agent or an actors' agency to represent me."

During his free time, he is usually at the gym, one of his favorite places.

In Philadelphia, he has already acted in one short film and is waiting to do one more, for which he has already been approved.

He has directed several films—five feature films and two short ones. One of his favorites is a modern version of **Hamlet**, which he shot on a mobile phone.

The last successful project in which he acted was a film titled **Bullet**, directed by Khatuna Vashadze. The film was a nominee at the Marbella Film Festival and also won numerous awards at other festivals. He was also in Steven Hilliard Stern's **Running**. Last month, George screened his latest film **Didi and Gogo**, based on Samuel Beckett's play **Waiting for Godot**, in Philadelphia.





How long have you been an actor and what do you enjoy the most about this field?

I have been in the entertainment industry for over 27 years. I started performing on the stage and acting in the films when I was still studying at Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film University.

What I love about my profession is that our ideas and performances provide spiritual nourishment to the audience and have a positive effect on it. Sometimes our performance makes the audience think, sometimes it makes the audience laugh, and sometimes it makes the audience cry. In short, it changes a person for the better. In my opinion, it is magic.

What attracted you to acting initially?

As a teenager, I saw fabulous movies such as Bernardo Bertolucci's **1900**, Francis Ford Coppola's **The Conversation** and **The Godfather**, Orson Welles' **Citizen Kane** and **For Fake**, Mel Gibson's **Braveheart**, Barry Levinson's **Rainman**, Tony Scott's **Spy Game**, Martin Scorsese's **Raging Bull**, several John Ford movies, and other masterpieces, too many to list. These films, directors, and actors played a huge role in choosing my profession. They inspired me.

Who are your biggest influences?

As an actor I found my inspiration in the movies and actors listed above. I always remember a film and its director, actors, screenwriter, famous



quotes and, most importantly, its music. Therefore, the music used in the above movies is my source of inspiration. For example, the music in Bertolucci's film was written by Ennio Morricone.

What is your main strength as an actor?

My hard work, my devotion to the profession, my discipline, and my concentration when I do my work. One of my strengths is that I can act in all genres.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

I have already established myself in my country, but my dream is to establish myself in America as well, which is not easy. However, I believe that with hard work, determination and luck, dreams come true.

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

One of my dreams is to meet Mel Gibson and offer him such a cool script idea for a movie that he won't be able to refuse. I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse! I would like to work on the project with him. I am sure we will get an Oscar for this project.

What is your message to all your fans?

I love and appreciate them and I want them to assess my work properly. I also get criticism from them, and that is also interesting to me.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GEORGE

Read about his projects:

letterboxd.com/film/hamlet-2018-1/?fbclid=IwAR2xrELBu2VcxK-boPZmUV7xNQDdFEPUnljqFZ5tR9Wcr5uqETuDCFj9jZaw

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Behind the Scenes:
Claudia Hoag, Loyde
Cordero, Donna Wilson



Photo Credit: Claudia Hoag



TEMA

Tema Staig is the Executive Director of Women In Media, an organization that she founded in 2010. In 2016, in response to the many excuses for why people weren't hiring women behind the scenes in entertainment, she created the Women In Media (WiM) Crew List, a Google Doc that went viral. She founded Women In Media 501(c)3 in 2017, transitioning the grassroots community into a vibrant organization and establishing the searchable crew list database as the go-to place to find, vet, and hire women and gender nonconforming crew members working behind the scenes. The impact of this list has affected who tells the stories behind the scenes, and thus the storytelling itself. Audiences are seeing more women with agency on TV and in films as a shift in awareness towards inclusion is now considered a necessity. It's Tema's personal mission to make sure that parity be proactively put in place until it becomes a habit.

Under Tema's direction, the organization has changed the career trajectory for women and gender nonconforming people. She has spearheaded initiatives and training programs resulting in women gaining access to union and higher-production value jobs that were previously unavailable to them.

Tema has been in the film industry since earning her master's degree from the Tisch Department of Design for Stage and Screen in 1999. She is a Production Designer/Art Director with a background

in scenic art and theater design. She is known for her work on the feature films *Kissing Jessica Stein*, **Happy Hour**, **Battlefield America**, and **American Splendor**, as well as commercials and music videos. She was a pilot IFP Project Involve: NY Fellow. Tema also produced three short films in 2019 through Women In Media's CAMERAderie Initiative, including **Blood and Glory** and **Cherry Lemonade**, which screened at Tribeca. In 2021, she produced four CAMERAderie films which are currently on the festival circuit.

When did you initially get involved in the entertainment industry and what was this experience like?

I started my career in live events and nightclubs working as a VJ and a DJ, as well as lighting and art director, as a teen. Yes, I was a tad underage! Little by little, I migrated into television and film as a scenic artist and production designer. I have always loved the technical and artistic challenges of making movies, theater, and working on live events.

In my very early days as the Art and Lighting Director at the Roxy Nightclub in Boston, I had my own dedicated Genie cherry picker lift, and the freedom to design and execute all kinds of exciting events. I got to work with legendary artists such as Cab Calloway, Lily Tomlin, and Tony Bennett. It was very rewarding and I grew a lot as an artist and technician. But it wasn't all roses, and I was very ambitious.

STAIG

Before I was in the workforce, my parents told me that if I applied myself, I could do anything I wanted as a career. I found that I gravitated towards jobs that weren't traditionally held by women. I was told outright what I could and could not do, not because I was unqualified or incapable, but because I didn't fit into someone's idea of what I should be doing. I didn't like being told that I couldn't do something because of my gender. It was anathemic to my upbringing, and hey... I'm tenacious.

For example, I was initially told by several club managers that I could not be a DJ because I was a "girl" and only "men" were DJ's. It just didn't compute. As my dad put it, "It wasn't a job made for brute strength, so why not?" I eventually got the job, but I had to be twice as good to get half the respect. Long story short, I was working as a Video Jockey at a club that would not hire me to DJ despite being taught by one of the best DJ's on the East Coast and practicing beat matching vinyl records everyday. I finally got noticed because the male DJ I was working with would go on long bathroom breaks when he lost the dance floor. He would ask me to cover for him because he knew that I had been practicing my mixes before the club opened. I would get the floor back, the crowd screaming and feeling great, and then he would come back and act like it was all him. Eventually, one of the managers got wise and gave me the "dead" night to try me out. It

became the night to go to that club. Soon enough, I had earned three nights a week because I knew what music to play, when to play it, and how to manage a dance floor vibe. I was at the height of making the club crazy money when they threatened to take away my record allowance and cut my pay, which was already lower than their male DJ's.

I didn't like being told that I couldn't do something because of my gender. It was anathemic to my upbringing, and hey... I'm tenacious.

It was financial insanity. I told them to pay me my rate in cash the next weekend or I wasn't going to work for them anymore. They refused, so I quit. They closed a few months later. That was my first lesson that people would rather live in their closely held beliefs than make money and thrive. I learned that people don't always think with their heads when they are stuck in what they think they know, even when life is telling them otherwise. It also fueled my activism, which has gotten me where I am today.

In 2010 you founded Women in Media. What led you to do so? What is Women in Media and what are its main goals?

I was teaching at a film school where the women students and faculty were constantly being mistreated, mansplained, and pushed around by the male students and some of the manag-

ers. It really crystallized when we gave "Women to Watch" Awards to five female students. A really large, brick wall of a male student didn't know I was behind him when he said to one of the honorees, "So, they're giving you an award for having a vagina?" Because he didn't see me, he felt entitled to be on a power trip and speak rudely to this very gifted young woman, exposing his misogyny. That male student was hired as an instructor within the year, even though management knew about the comment and his overarching antagonism towards his fellow students. That's when I

knew it was time to fix the system from the inside. The students asked me to be their faculty advisor, so I came up with a networking system that helped them build lasting relationships and strength as a community at the school.

The network I built was expanding, and there was a need to reach beyond the confines of the school. I connected with Samantha Shada, who had just launched a screening series called **Seeking Our Stories**. She was screening films of historical significance by women directors, because she couldn't convince local Los Angeles theaters or societies that people wanted to watch the films, or learn the hidden history of women in the film industry.

Giants of the industry, such as Dorothy Arzner, who directed Paramount's first talkie, was the

first woman in the DGA, and the designer of the boom mic, were not being taught in film school. It was clear that we needed to create our own monthly film club. We teamed up, and I started to help Samantha build the audience with pre-screening networking and a 10 minute powerpoint about the director of the film we were screening. We collected contact sheets of the guests who would get emailed the sheet for further networking. Industry folks would come regularly, hire each other beyond the event, and talk about the films with deep passion. Eventually, theaters caught on that this was an untapped market and started screening films by women. Now it's the norm, so we just go to the films-- which was the goal all along. But who knows? Maybe we'll bring back **Seeking Our Story**. There was a magical energy to it, and it moved the movement very quickly with a joy that only happens when the entertainment community gets together over the love of storytelling.

What is the Women In Media Crew List, a document that quickly went viral, and why did it become so relevant?

From **Seeking Our Story**, I became known as the lady who knew all the crew, and indeed I had been challenging people to be more inclusive with their behind-the-scenes talent. A friend needed to hire people quickly and asked for my recommendations for crew all over the world to capture the first Women's March. I didn't have the time or interest needed for becoming an agent, so it oc-



Photo Credit: Claudia Hoag

curred to me that if I had women fill out a Google Doc, I could send people in a position to hire there, and take myself out of the equation. It turns out that 26 department tabs with over 2,000 people, not to mention all the traffic to view, is too much for a Google spreadsheet to handle. So, we created a website with a proper database, went 501(c)3, and started offering more programs and initiatives to take away all the excuses of why people couldn't hire women. We heard excuses such as, "I don't know any, so they don't exist!", "There are women, but they aren't qualified enough!", "They don't want to work on genre films!", or "I hired a woman once, and it didn't work out!!" To which I respond, "Well, we've all worked with men who didn't work out, and it didn't stop folks from hiring more men." You name it, I've heard it — some really ridiculous stuff. The Women In Media goal is 40-60% women and gender nonconforming crew in every department, every crew, every show. We expect it to take seven years to happen and another 15 to make it a habit.

What are some of Women in Media's most important activities?

We've done the CAM-ERAderie Initiative, a script-to-distribution program that produces three or four 10-page, high-production value narrative films. We did this in response to women mostly doing low-budget, indepen-

The Women In Media goal is 40-60%

women and gender nonconforming crew in every department, every crew, every show. We expect it to take seven years to happen and another 15 to make it a habit.



dent projects, but hitting a wall when it came to working on bigger-budget, high-production value projects. There's nothing wrong with low- and micro-budget indies, but we want more women getting sustainable jobs.

Our goal is economic equity. That's really what it's about, making a creative economy that works for everyone. It was important that we bring as many members up as possible, as opposed to a few at a time, which is how most programs operate. We touch about 300 people over the course of the training, the mentorship, and eventually the shooting, post production, and festival runs of these films. We have incredible community support, with training, building, shooting, and gear from Television City/MBS Group and we do our post color and sound at NBC Universal. WiM pays for much of the necessities that don't show up on screen, such as insurance, permits, and portable bathrooms, all vitally needed, but out of reach for many filmmakers looking to move into higher-level work.

We host the Altitude Awards, celebrating Women In Media members who exemplify the art and craft of workflow in camera, lighting, and post production/new tech. The Altitude awards are open to cinematographers, camera operators, gaffers, colorists, editors, and those in VFX/new tech. The judges are industry leaders in their respective fields, so it's incredible to have work seen by them. There is an awards ceremony with

prizes and a reception during Cinegear LA, to take place June 1 to June 4, 2023. We are accepting submissions until May 15th.

Women In Media is proud to expand our offerings with networking and continuing educational events. We recently held a Loader/Utility two-day training and certification at BECiNE camera house. There was hands-on training, panels, and an afterparty. An essential aspect of this training was the participation of the ICG Local 600 union, and the focus on demystifying the process to join the union. Along with Local 600 leaders, we had Contract Services on hand to give focused information on how to join the union. There was a "Settiquette" panel to give our members the basics of set etiquette as it pertains to union vs. non-union film and TV, reality vs. scripted TV, and independent vs. studio work. Thirty-three participants passed exams for this certification. Those members who became "WiM certified" can now easily be found and searched on the CrewList with our new "certification" badge.

We are thrilled about our latest venture, the WiM Lounge, which can be found on our website. The lounge is our social media platform which functions like a cross between Facebook Groups and Slack where members can network, find jobs, look for work, host events, explore festivals, and direct message other members. This is a troll-free zone and a path to expand our members' networks like never before. It closes the loop

for the WiM ecosystem and brings our worldwide membership together.

In your opinion, what challenges did women face when you started the organization? Are they all still there or have some been eradicated? Are there some new challenges that did not exist before?

We have made terrific gains toward parity in the entertainment industry. More women have sustainable jobs behind the scenes than five years ago. Even better, there are so many organizations and initiatives that have risen to the occasion to confront and fix the issue. All of this is quite heartening.

Really, we should be hiring the best person for the job, and the math shakes out that women, being 52% of the population, would produce a lot of talent. All that has been missing in the past was the opportunity. Studios missed out on a lot of talent because of a stubborn system that kept women out. It's really a shame for the industry and the viewing public, because we could have been thriving even more financially and artistically had people such as Julie Dash been given the same keys to the kingdom as their male counterparts. This goes double for award shows that ignore the contributions of women. Seriously, the world won't fall off its axis if more than one woman is nominated for Best Director or Best Cinematography.

We are, however, seeing marked gains over the last 5 to 10 years in the crew, noting that parity is

trickling up to key artistic positions. This is very positive for the industry as an economic force and is critical for the well-being of our workers. Having a more inclusive, professional set increases the positive, creative energy that is essential to the artistic process. We are hearing that sets are becoming less toxic and way more respectful of their crew. It's much harder to get away with unprofessional, sexist behavior on set. It's just not welcomed.

That being said, there are still people who want women to be their mommies, their support systems, their household servants by default. It's high time that we, as a society, support women and men to decide for themselves if they want to be breadwinners or not. I want to see more men talking about their work/life balance and how they handle fatherhood, bills, and keeping the house tidy for their very busy working wives. We don't need to box people into roles. Many men are suited to be the primary caregiver, while many women are suited to be breadwinners. I want a society that affords people more choice to follow their bliss.

What would you consider one of your main career highlights?

I was just honored with the LA County Woman of the Year Award, along with Mayor Karen Bass. A recognition of that magnitude is hard to top! When I got the phone call, I was utterly shocked, grateful, and humbled to know that others see me and my work and recognize my ef-

forts to create real change and economic equity for all women.

What advice would you offer a woman who is interested in pursuing a career in entertainment?

Stick with it. It's important to recognize that issues you face in one sector probably aren't going to be any different elsewhere, because the U.S. is systematically sexist and racist. So, we must deal with it firmly and with a clear head.

This advice is for everyone—be a kind and generous collaborator. You are going to need friends in this business, and talent alone doesn't cut it. People work with people they like because the days are too long to work with lousy people.

What are the requirements for being a part of Women in Media and what are the main benefits?

There are four levels of memberships: Pro, Student, Executive, and Friends of WiM.

Women and gender nonconforming folks need at least a few credits in a behind-the-scenes role for Pro membership. Your application becomes your CrewList profile once you submit yearly dues (\$90). Benefits include access to the WiMLounge, our online social connector, event and vendor discounts, members-only events, access to on-demand content, and a special newsletter filled with members-only benefits. We also host members-only seminars and networking, such as Writer Groups.



Photo Credit: Donna Wilson



Having a more inclusive, professional set increases the positive, creative energy that is essential to the artistic process.

You must be a member to apply for The Altitude Awards and CAMERAderie. The best part, though, is being a member of a fantastic community that *loves* the art and craft of storytelling.

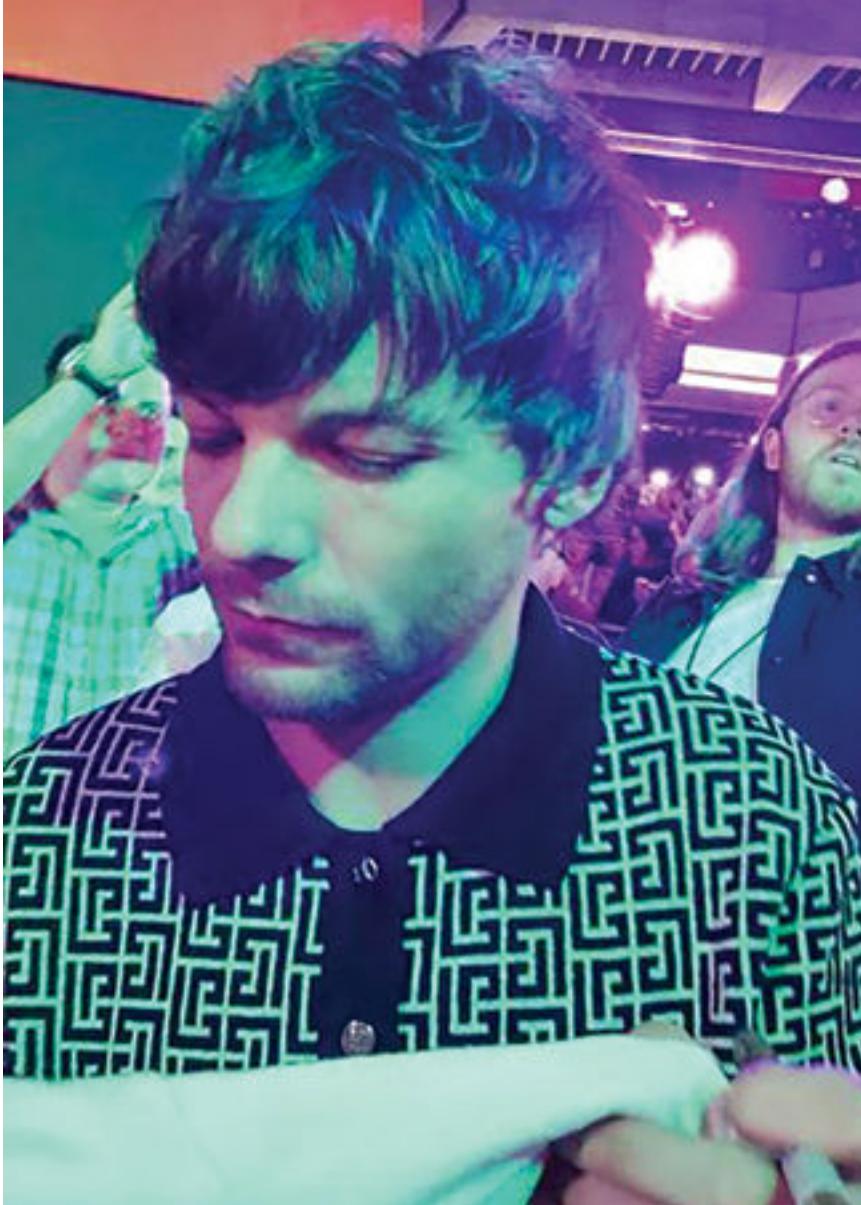
We accept students with valid proof of college registration. They enjoy all the benefits of Pro membership, but get a 50% discount. I was a poor (I mean a really, really poor) student myself, and I'm fully aware that I would have benefited from joining an organization such as WiM to jumpstart my career. In fact, that experience of my past has guided many of my decisions in how we structure and build the Women In Media ecosystem.

Executive Members can be of any gender, but are at a higher level of membership- they are typically key creatives in a position to hire and recommend. We invite them to exclusive events, and they get first dibs when we are invited to high-ticket outside events.

Friends of WiM are supporters who aren't necessarily in the industry, but want to support and join us at our most exciting community events. Since they don't tend to be industry, they don't get a CrewList profile, but they do get priority seating at special events such as our wildly popular Holiday Toast, access to on-demand content, and VIP gift bags.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
MEMBERSHIP HERE:**

womennmedia.com/join/



Louis Tomlinson

By Betty Vazquez

English singer-songwriter Louis Tomlinson, former member of One Direction, chose Mexico City as the final stop during a tour in which he presented his documentary, **All Of Those Voices**. In addition to Tomlinson, award-winning filmmaker and photographer Charlie Lightening was present.

Mexican fans lined up days in advance at the mall where this documentary premiere was set to take place on March 20, 2023. Initially, there were around 150 fans waiting, but by 6:00 a.m. on the 20th, there were already around 500 people in line to grab a spot by the red carpet.

They then patiently endured a 12-hour wait, without even being able to grab a bite to eat or go to the restroom, just for a shot at seeing their favorite singer.

Finally the wait was over. Around 6:30 p.m., host Hector Trejo, an actor and content creator, asked the fans to be careful and not to jump over the barricades. It was important, he said, to stop pushing and shoving, because by then there were already fans who were fainting.

Numerous content creators, such as Luis Velody, Ana Villarin, Karina Tuirán, Mar Rendón, and José González, walked the

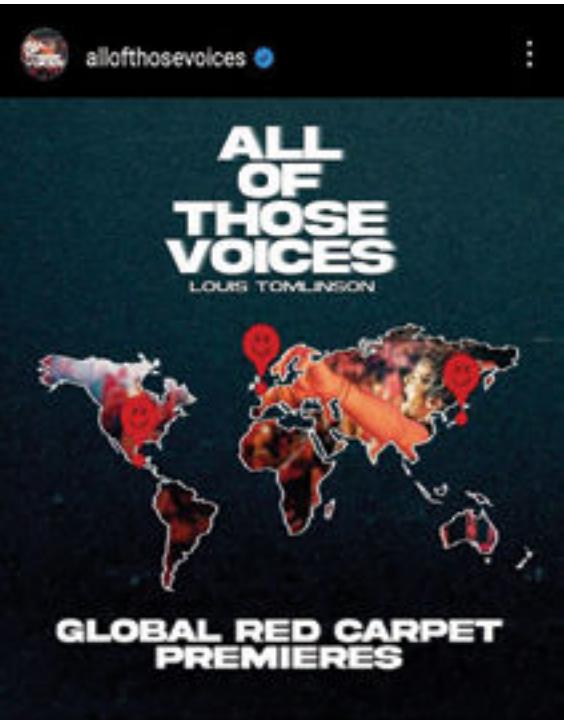
carpet. Then, at 7:03 p.m., director Charlie Lightening arrived. The fans greeted him with a "Charlie, brother, you are already Mexican".

Charlie mentioned that he had met Louis at an event hosted by another very popular English singer-songwriter, Liam Gallagher. Hector asked Charlie if he was excited for the night and his response was "I'm very proud of the film, of what we did, and I'm very excited to show you this story and that Louis let me tell it".

At 7:19 p.m. Louis finally arrived. Much like when Charlie

IN MEXICO CITY

Fans Line up Days in Advance to See Their Favorite Artist at His Documentary Premiere



got there, fans shouted "Louis, brother, you are already Mexican". The first question for Louis, the question which fans had requested the most, was why Louis has decided to visit Mexico.

"It's an important part of my career, and it's an important place for me with the band and as a solo artist, that's why it was important to include Mexico. I also feel all the love from the fans. So I definitely had to come here," he replied.

Louis also mentioned that he would have loved to give his message in Spanish, but he

wasn't prepared. "Let me tell you, thank you so much for making an event of this size happen. It is a testament to our relationship. Thank you so much. I love you all," he added.

After this, Hector helped Louis so that he could say "Thank you so much for being here, I love you all" in Spanish. Then, he started his walk down the red carpet, giving autographs. He even signed One Direction albums, t-shirts, and other merchandise, such as cellphone cases.



Promoting Beauty and Style

Model and Event
Agency Owner Margit
Tietz and Her Lengthy,
Successful Career

Margit Tietz owns model and event agency Tietziana, and has been working in the fashion industry for 54 years.

Her name has been synonymous with fashion, beauty, and unusual, eye-catching, graceful fashion for many years. She was once honored as the "Grande Dame" and style icon of the fashion world in her hometown of Magdeburg, Germany. In 2010, she was honored as a "partner for economic development" by this German city.

"I pass on my many years of experience to young models and also to 45+ Best Ager- Classic Ladies and Plus Size Models. I learned the basics of modeling in the 1970s at the Heinz Bormann company in Magdeburg, Germany. Heinz Bormann was a couturier known as the 'fashion czar of the East'! I trained as an industrial clerk, and due to my very

“My main concern is to bring some joy to the older generation. I do all of this, of course, as a volunteer.”

good performance, I was then able to study engineering economics for construction in 1971. For many years I worked at an engineering office. But my interest in fashion kept growing,” Margit recalls.

In the 1980s, she founded the first modeling agency in what was then East Germany. She organized fashion shows and was already training models back then. As an event and model manager, she was responsible for the success of many events. There is a pageant where winners are named Miss and Mister Sachsen-Anhalt. Margit has discovered many Misses and Misters Sachsen-Anhalt in recent years and was a member of the jury for the “Miss Germany Corporation” event. She has also been a part of numerous

fashion shows, such as those supporting People's Solidarity, AWO, and Caritas.

“My main concern is to bring some joy to the older generation. I do all of this, of course, as a volunteer,” says Margit. “In my agency, I showcase Best Ager-Classic Ladies. I offer fashion shows for fashion-conscious women in their prime, women of all sizes. We do photo shoots and styling consultations.”

For several years now, she has been the representative in Germany for BaroQco Haute Couture Jewelry.

“I was appointed ‘Heart Of Hollywood Model International’ by CEO Giovanna Salas in 2019, and I am a VIP member of Heart Of Hollywood Magazine in Ger-





many. In 2020, I successfully took part in the Online Digital Red Carpet Festival hosted by Heart Of Hollywood Magazine, and presented two international designers and myself, reaching 19 countries around the world," Margit explains. "In 2021 I became Mrs. Universal Empire Germany, a title awarded by the MUE Entertainment Company International London, in Great Britain. I also became an ambassador for MUE in Germany and Eastern Europe."

Margit enjoys helping national and international designers become better known and placing them at different fashion events. Her agency has been working with designers and boutiques for 15 years.

"I organize fashion shows myself, and last year I spontaneously organized and carried out a gala to benefit Ukrainian seniors. This way, I was able to

make a contribution in solidarity with Ukraine," she says. "Also, my agency specializes in Best Ager-Classic Ladies fashion shows in different locations."

Margit loves that she was able to turn her hobby, fashion, into a job, and that she can make people by introducing them to the world of style.

"I put my heart and soul into what I do, with great joy! It is my dream and my calling. I live for fashion! Fashion can sometimes help ensure that there is peace in this world and that different people on Earth understand each other and live together in harmony," she says. "I have a message for Heart Of Hollywood Magazine readers. Wear fashion that you like with all your heart, and do what you do with a lot of enthusiasm and love. Then, you will be successful".

CONNECT WITH MARGIT

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Cheers To Your Renewed Self-Confidence!

Sommelier Angelo Rivas Designs Drink Recipes Inspired by a Motivational Book

Entertainment expert and *Heart Of Hollywood Magazine* editor Sandy Rodriguez is the author of **Choose to Prevail**, a book designed to help the reader navigate life more confidently.

It is a collection of nonfiction essays, written from the heart and with a sprinkling of humor. From dealing with problem people or making peace with your appearance to letting go of envy or getting comfortable with public speaking, this slim volume has you covered.

Choose to Prevail is the Gold Medal winner in the Best Health & Wellness Book category of the International Latino

Book Awards, the largest Latino cultural awards event in the U.S. It is also the 2021 Readers' Favorite Silver Medal Winner in the Non-Fiction - Grief/ Hardship genre.

Find over 100 reviews and get your copy on Amazon (shorturl.at/bEGLP) or most other online book retailers. Signed copies are available only at <https://www.heartofhollywood-magazine.com/product-page/choose-to-prevail-signed-copy-by-sandy-rodriguez-paperback>

To help set the stage for a relaxed evening of reading, renowned sommelier and wine and spirits consultant Angelo Rivas has designed three drink

options inspired by **Choose to Prevail**.

These exciting beverage recommendations pair beautifully with the contents of the book. Pour yourself a glass to sip while leafing through the pages.

The color of all three drinks evokes the book's rich maroon-red cover. The first one contains a distilled spirit from Puerto Rico, where the author was born. The second one celebrates the idea of turning lemon into lemonade, a concept explored in the book. The cover shows part of a painting titled "Sangiovese and Roses," and this, in turn, gave way to the third drink suggestion.



CHOOSE TO PREVAIL

COCKTAIL

- 1 oz Bacardi Reserva Ocho (or similar) rum
- 1 dash grenadine syrup
- 1 small bottle tonic water

Pour rum and syrup into an old-fashioned glass over ice. Fill glass with tonic water.



LEMONS INTO (HIBISCUS) LEMONADE

- 1/4 cup dried hibiscus flowers (also known as jamaica flowers, available in many Latin supermarkets or online)
- Juice of 3 yellow limes
- 1/4 cup honey
- 8 cups of water

Bring 2 cups of water to a boil and remove from heat. Add hibiscus, cover pot, and let steep for 10 to 15 minutes. Strain, add honey and stir until dissolved. Pour into pitcher, add lemon juice and remaining water. Refrigerate or serve over ice. (Sandy suggests adding a small splash of mezcal to one's glass in order to turn this nonalcoholic drink into a cocktail, if desired.)

SANGIOVESE

Frescobaldi Chianti Rufina
Nipozzano Riserva

Pour a glass of this Sangiovese wine, or another Sangiovese of your choosing.

FOLLOW SOMELIER ANGELO

TK: www.tiktok.com/@angelorivasmx

IG: @drinkeatnow

FOLLOW AUTHOR SANDY RODRIGUEZ

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Rejected By
An Agent?

Here
Are
4 Tips

To Help You Deal With Not
Being Offered a Contract

By Aaron Marcus

Getting rejected by an agent never feels good. But it is crucial to understand that there are many reasons why someone isn't offered a contract from an agent. And it is so important to know that this might say absolutely nothing about your talent, abilities, or how far you can go in the industry.

1. Understand the Best Way to Get Signed by an Agent

The best way to get signed with an agent is to have someone refer you to the agent. Some larger agencies won't even see actors unless they were recommended by someone the agent trusts and respects.

Ask friends from acting classes or other actors who you know if they will refer you to their agent.

2. Make Sure Your Materials Are Great Before Submitting to an Agent.

It is essential that actors have great materials (headshot, resume) before submitting to an agent. You always want to give a great first impression. People will remember negative things, even if you create a better headshot and resume in the future.

3. Ask the Agent to Recommend Another Agency

Maybe you are not a perfect fit for the agency. Perhaps the agent already represents too many people in your category. Or maybe the agent doesn't get the type of work you should be submitted for.

So, if that is the case, ask the agent for names of other acting agencies in your area that might be a better fit for your skills and look.

4. Continue Searching for the Perfect Agent

If you get turned down or not offered a contract, don't worry. There are many great agents out there waiting for someone like you to reach out to them. In this industry, one should never take rejection personally. These are just business decisions, not personal ones. So, if you don't get the offer, just view it as the agent's loss. And think of the interaction as a great experience that will make you even more prepared for the next agent submission.



CONNECT WITH AARON MARCUS

Aaron Marcus has been a full-time actor for over 37 years. He has been cast in nearly 1,300 acting and modeling jobs. He was cast in the Netflix feature **White Noise**, the HBO miniseries **We Own This City**, and **A Man Called Otto** (with Tom Hanks), to name a few.

He has written **How to Become a Successful Actor and Model** (<https://howtoactandmodel.com/book-the-job-book>), considered by many to be the most important book for the industry. It has over 100 five-star ratings on Amazon.

Aaron saves five days each month to personally mentor actors and models, and helps them break into or advance their acting and modeling career. Discover more at howtoactandmodel.com/mentoringprogram

YT: Subscribe and learn from Aaron's nearly 300 free acting and modeling quick tip video library. youtube.com/c/aaronmarcusactingandmodelingquicktips

IG: [@aronrmarcus](https://www.instagram.com/aronrmarcus)



Photo Credit: Loyde Cordero

PREPARE TO BE SURPRISED

A Still-Secret Movie Starring Clint Eastwood's Granddaughter That Will Benefit Under-Resourced Youths

Graylen Eastwood, granddaughter of legendary Clint Eastwood, is set to star in an epic western tale. In doing so, she will launch her career and carry on the Eastwood name, gunning her way up the entertainment ladder.

The film is still a secret project with many aspects, including the title, still being kept under wraps.

Heart Of Hollywood Magazine, however, has been informed that the movie is a western that takes place in 1872 in old New Mexico territory. It tells the story of a young woman fed up with the oppression and control exerted by powerful and corrupt men who constantly ravage her small town, until she fights back, showing them the fight of their lives... and deaths.

The movie was written and directed by Bryan Bernhard, making his directorial debut. This is a story by Bradley Alan and Bryan Bernhard.

It is produced by Bryan Bernhard, who also serves as executive producer, along with Travis MaLlloy; Errol Sack and Derek Hunt of ES Films and Sable Ranch in Santa Clarita, and Bradley Alan and Graylen Eastwood of Freedom Tree Entertainment.

Freedom Tree Entertainment was started by Bradley Alan and Graylen Eastwood in the summer of 2021, with the intention of creating films that push limits and break molds, films that are provocative, informational, exciting, and life-changing.

Their hope is to bring to life, through storytelling, the light within subjects that are cloud-

ed in darkness, misconceptions, and maybe even straight-out lies and cover-ups. Whether they are portraying fantasy or reality, they strive to do their best to show truth in life, so that the audience grows in a positive way while also being dazzled and entertained.

Freedom Tree, along with political activist and community leader Danny Garcia, has also put together a Film Production Development Program for under-resourced youths.

This creates an opportunity for students to learn about, work on, and even be a part of this top-secret production. Freedom Tree trusts it can teach young people the fundamentals of filmmaking and give them hands-on experience to help prepare them for a more successful future in their filmmaking endeavors.



Which TV Show Will Succeed “Succession”?

By Doly Mallet

CRITICS' CORNER

HBO always surprises us by presenting extremely successful, controversial shows with profound messages, extraordinarily human and flawed characters, and suspenseful plots. **Succession** is not the exception and, as fans, we are sad to see this fourth season is the finale.

Even though it is fiction, it is loosely based on the life of Rupert Murdoch, a business magnate, owner of hundreds of national and international media outlets worldwide, including **Fox News**. He was ranked as the 31st richest person in the United States last year.

The show's first season starts off by showing a magnate, Logan Roy, who is very ill. His de-

scendants are worried about who the successor will be. Yes, it sounds greedy at first, but then we learn that the patriarch, played marvelously by Brian Cox, is one of the most villainous fathers in movies and TV.

Then, we meet the contenders for the reign, those who, throughout all the seasons, fight one another to win their father's favor. Connor (Alan Ruck) is the eldest son from Logan's first marriage, with no interest in the business (also, with no intelligence or abilities; he just wants to spend the money). Kendall (Jeremy Strong) is the first son from the second marriage, and has been playing the part of the successor all this time, learning everything directly from his father. He is also a drug addict



and behaves as someone who is completely helpless, vulnerable, and fearful to the point of panicking when he has to deal with Logan. Siobhan (Sarah Snook) is the only daughter. She is involved in politics and is probably the smartest of them all. Lastly, Roman (Kieran Culkin), the youngest, is jaded and with a very dark sense of humor. He talks about sex all the time but has problems getting deeply involved, be it emotionally or sexually, with partners.

The series, created by Jesse Armstrong, has received 103 awards and 184 nominations in total, thanks to a superintelligent script, savvy dialogues, and the best acting you have ever seen. Yes, Brian Cox is superb, followed by Kieran Culkin,

who can amazingly say disgusting sexual jokes with a sarcasm so dark that it makes you both laugh and cry. And, of course, the show's star, Jeremy Strong, is now famous due to his method acting.

The last time method acting was discussed widely was probably because of Daniel Day-Lewis. Now, everybody is talking about the technique again, partly due to a profile published in *The New Yorker* (2021), where we learned how Strong achieved such intensity in scenes. So far he has won the Emmy, the Golden Globe, the Critics Choice Award, and the SAG Award, plus 21 nominations.

Succession portrays the lifestyle of billionaires, something

far beyond our reach. Despite this, and even though the characters are psychologically disturbed and fighting over an empire, we can relate. We understand them, suffer their sorrows, and translate what they are living into our ordinary lives. **Succession** shows humanity in all of its splendor and its decadence. It shows the deep vulnerabilities of our fears and desires.

Because it is painted with the colors of tragedy, this highly-anticipated finale will probably leave us at the edge of our seats, holding our breath, but feeling the ecstasy of the turbulent soul of human nature. Once **Succession** is over, it will leave a big empty chair on the TV show lineup.

Doly Mallet is a bestselling author and a professional TV and film critic.

IG: @dolymallet

Skyler Jack Spritzer is a beginning actor and model born and raised in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Skyler began showing interest in modeling and acting at age two, when his father, Joseph Lovato, began to teach him about the fashion and modeling world. Shortly after, Skyler was signed by the Brogan Agency in Venice, California. Since being signed in 2021, Skyler has worked as a background actor in a film starring actress Amy Adams. He also participated in the JCPenney fashion show through the Santa Clarita School of Performing Arts, where he is enrolled to help advance in his acting and modeling skills.

Skyler would love to make his dream of establishing himself fully as an actor or model a reality. His experience and training have already contributed significantly to his skills in the field. He follows directions well and enjoys being in front of the camera. Skyler is very photogenic and his smile is like a ray of sunshine.

How long have you been in the entertainment industry and what do you enjoy the most about this field?

I have been in the industry as a model and actor for two years, and enjoy being in front of the camera and learning from the other actors and models.

What attracted you to a career as an actor?

I found my passion for acting and modeling through my father, Joseph Lovato, at the early age of two when he introduced me to fashion, modeling, and acting.

Who are your biggest influences?

The most influential people in my life are my two dads. My dads are teaching me to aim high, work hard, and value family. My parents guide me, comfort me, and bring the best out of me in everything that I do. They constantly inspire me to achieve.

How difficult is it to establish yourself in the film industry?

It has been very challenging to get established, especially since I'm starting out with very few connections in the industry.

What's your dream, your ultimate goal? Do you feel like you're on the path to this goal, or do you feel as if you already achieved that dream?

I'm on the path to fulfilling my dream of becoming an actor or model and putting my skills to work.

What is your message to all your fans?

Never give up on your dream. Keep climbing until you reach the top.

CONNECT WITH SKYLER

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